



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Dear Bottled Water Dispenser Manufacturer:

EPA welcomes your input on the following *draft* bottled water dispenser specification (*Version 1.0*) for the ENERGY STAR Water Cooler Program. The three-page document outlines the main criteria that manufacturers' products will need to meet to qualify for the ENERGY STAR label. We encourage you to review the draft specification and provide **comments by February 4, 2000**. Comments should be sent to me via e-mail at sanchez.marla@epa.gov. Questions may also be directed to me via e-mail or phone at 202-564-1248.

The ENERGY STAR Water Cooler program will cover both bottled water dispensers and pressurized fountains. *Draft* specifications (*Version 1.0*) for pressurized fountains are currently in development and will be released on **January 28, 2000**. Interested parties will be notified upon release of the specification.

While reviewing the draft specification, please keep in mind that the primary objective of the ENERGY STAR Programs is to recognize energy-efficient products in the market through the use of the ENERGY STAR label. As proposed, the bottled water dispenser specification focuses on reducing standby losses. EPA intends to set an ENERGY STAR specification that while challenging, provides manufacturers with appropriate incentives and lead-time to redesign products to meet the ENERGY STAR specification. It is EPA's hope that manufacturers will strive to comply over time, thus transforming the market towards high efficiency products.

All industry comments will be reviewed and considered carefully during the program development process. The exchange of ideas and information between EPA and industry is critical to the success of the ENERGY STAR Programs. As such, you are strongly encouraged to provide prompt feedback.

To ensure confidentiality when submitting comments, please mark all sensitive information as CBI (Confidential Business Information). Unless otherwise noted, all information will be treated as proprietary and confidential and will not be shared with others without prior consent.

In the coming months, EPA will gather industry feedback on this Program and issue additional draft specifications as necessary. It is EPA's intention to finalize the product specification during the first quarter of 2000. The final specification will be issued in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will be jointly signed by interested companies and EPA. The MOU will provide effective dates for the Program, test procedures for manufacturers to determine compliance, ENERGY STAR logo use guidelines, product submittal forms, and other program information. To ensure a successful program, EPA would like interested parties to comment on all aspects of the Water Cooler Program before the specification is finalized.

I am available throughout January to meet with you and your colleagues to discuss comments on EPA's draft specification. If you are interested in meeting, please contact me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to review this draft specification. I look forward to working with you during the next several months. For more information about ENERGY STAR and specifically the Water Cooler Program, please visit our Web site at www.energystar.gov and click on "Products in Development."

Respectfully,

Marla Sanchez
EPA Program Manager
ENERGY STAR Water Coolers

Enclosure